

VZCZCXRO4236
PP RUEHCD RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHLA RUEHLN RUEHMRE RUEHSR RUEHVK RUEHYG
DE RUEHAH #0138/01 0271156
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 271156Z JAN 06
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6921
INFO RUCNOSC/OSCE POST COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2/HSE/CCJ5//
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5/RUE//
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ASHGABAT 000138

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/CACEN (PERRY), INR/REA (PARKER, FEINBERG),
SA DAS GASTRIGHT

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [ECON](#) [PINR](#) [EPET](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: NIYAZOV ESTABLISHES NEW RESHUFFLE RECORD

SUMMARY

1. (SBU) President Niyazov announced 23 new appointments and 18 dismissals in the course of three meetings on January 25. Former presidential favorite Aganiyaz Akyev was relieved as Chief of the Presidential Apparatus and appointed the new hakim (governor) of Dashoguz Welayat (province). Chief of the State Customs Service Alexandr Grishin was demoted to Deputy Chairman of the State Fisheries Committee. There were further notable changes in the Ministries of Education and Agriculture, and the administration of Dashoguz Welayat. End Summary.

ANOTHER HAKIM FIRED

2. (SBU) The most dramatic occurrence during three successive presidential meetings on January 25 was the dismissal and arrest of Dashoguz Welayat Hakim Kakamyrat Annagylyjov, Dashoguz Hakim since December 2004. (Note: Four out of five welayat hakims were replaced in the last five months. End Note.) Niyazov made a point of charging Annagylyjov, on television, with embezzlement of over 7.5 billion manats (USD 1.3 million), and of having four wives. Replacing Annagylyjov is former Chief Officer of the Presidential Apparatus Aganiyaz Akyev. Akyev was dismissed as Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers in December 2005. He has served an extensive part of his career in the President's bodyguard service.

MFA, CUSTOMS AND FISHERIES

3. (SBU) Chief of State Customs Service Alexander Grishin was demoted to Deputy Chairman of the State Fisheries Committee. Grishin was one of the last ethnic Russians to hold a high-level position in the GOTX; embassy staff considered him a solid and constructive interlocutor. Head of the Mary Welayat Department of the Ministry of National Security Myratberdi Annalyev was appointed the new Customs Chief. (Comment: Embassy suspects the 29-year-old Annalyev will be much more reserved in dealing with international partners, as is typically the case with newly appointed officials with security/military backgrounds. End Comment.)

14. (U) Meretgeldi Mammedov was dismissed as Chairman of the State Fisheries Committee for grave shortcomings and misuse of office. The Minister of National Security gave a detailed account of his crimes. Mammedov was escorted from the meeting by law enforcement officers.

15. (U) MFA First Deputy Yklymberdi Paromov was appointed Chief Officer of the Presidential Apparatus. Prior to his appointment with the MFA, Paromov worked in the MNB. While with the MFA, Paromov participated in the GOTX religious minority group roundtable and was a member of the Commission on the Registration of NGOs and Religious Groups.

EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE CHANGES

16. (U) Former deputy Hakim of Ashgabat City Shemshat Annagylyjova was appointed Minister of Education. Annagylyjova is the second female minister currently serving in the cabinet and was previously employed as a preschool teacher, elementary school teacher and high school principal. Other changes in the education sector include:

-- Appointment of Gurtmyrat Posykov as the new Rector of Saparmurat Turkmenbashi Agricultural University.

-- Dismissal of Chary Yazlyev for grave shortcomings from his positions as Rector of the Seidi Pedagogical Institute and Chairman of the president's High Council on Science and Technology.

ASHGABAT 00000138 002 OF 002

-- Transfer of Rejepmyrat Galayev from Rector of Turkmen State University to Rector of the Seidi Pedagogical Institute. (Note: A de facto demotion. End note.)

17. (SBU) Changes in agricultural-sector leadership include:

-- Minister of Agriculture Begench Atamyradov was dismissed for grave shortcomings. Atamyradov is a former Counterpart Consortium grantee and trainer, and was generally supportive of farmers' programs, specifically a Counterpart Consortium water users association. Atamyradov retains his position as Chairman of the Grain Products Association, but Niyazov threatened this job as well. Former Turkmen Agricultural University Rector Esenmurat Orazgelidzev was appointed Minister of Agriculture.

-- Niyazov also criticized several other officials in the agriculture sector for not being proactive, including Water Minister and Cochran alumnus Tekebay Altyev and Turkmen Agricultural Services Association Chief Sherip Tajov. Tajov's job was threatened, and he was warned by Niyazov that law enforcement investigations were underway.

-- Niyazov also announced many changes to the agricultural curriculum (septel).

OTHER CHANGES

18. (U) Durnabat Ashyrova was appointed as the new "Diyar" Magazine Editor-in-Chief.

19. (U) Purges extended to lower level GOTX officials as well. In Dashoguz Welayat, two etrap hakims, three deputy etrap hakims and one deputy city hakim were dismissed by the president, and two etrap hakims, four deputy etrap hakims and two city hakims were appointed.

In Mary Welayat four deputy etrap hakims and one deputy city hakim were appointed.

¶10. (U) 2006 personnel changes prior to January 25:

-- Appointment of Esen Aydogdyev as Turkmenistan's Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to the Republic of Austria. Aydogdyev was a recipient of the Benjamin Franklin Public Administration Fellowship to pursue graduate studies in 1993.

-- Appointment of Serdar Durdyev as Advisor to the permanent representative office of Turkmenistan at the United Nations.

-- Appointment of Hojamahmet Muhammedov as the Head of the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange.

-- Dismissal of Head of the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange Gurbanmurat Gulov for shortcomings.

COMMENT

¶11. (SBU) Niyazov made a record 41 appointments and dismissals during these three meetings. Although his reshuffles are incessant, replacing experienced officials with inexperienced, albeit loyal, security officers like Akyev and Annalyev is becoming a new trend. It looks as if Niyazov is seeking out subordinates who are not just absolutely loyal but also have the background to wield a strong hand, rather than any claim to substantive knowledge in their new field.

JACOBSON